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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/740,382	12/19/2000	Matthew R. Curreri	MATP-593US	3159

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EXAMINER

BELIVEAU, SCOTT E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

DATE MAILED: 12/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/740,382

Applicant(s)

CURRERI, MATTHEW R.

Examiner

Scott Beliveau

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 November 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 26 November 2004.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 09 September 2004 with respect to claims 1 and 3-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Specification

2. Updated status of all co-pending applications is further required as appropriate.
3. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). In particular, the examiner is unclear as to where support for the term "channel group selector" is found within the specification. The particular usage of the term was disclosed only in the claims as originally filed. On the basis of reviewing the parent application, now US Pat No. 6,817,027 (see Figure 3), it would appear that element "232" is the corresponding claimed element, however it is not clearly identified as such in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
5. Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14, and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Agasse (WO 00/05887), in view of Oosterhout et al. (WO 98/56176), in

Art Unit: 2614

view of Matthews, III (US Pat No. 5,654,748), and in further view of Harms et al. (US Pat No. 6,057,831).

In consideration of claim 1, the Agasse reference, as illustrated in conjunction with Figures 4-7 illustrates a “display interface having a group of channels for tuning a television receiver” [80]. As the limitation pertaining the “channel matrix”, the “display interface” [80] includes a “channel matrix having n columns and m rows for display a plurality of definable channels indicators for at most $n \times m$ channels, the channel matrix including entries for both available and unavailable channels, where n and m are positive integers greater than 2, each definable channel indicator corresponding to a respectively different position in the matrix” (Page 1, Lines 19-27; Page 22, Lines 18-30; Page 23, Lines 19-24; Page 25, Lines 11-19). In particular, as to the newly added limitation pertaining to the “matrix including entries for both available and unavailable channels”, the instant application discloses that unavailable channels” may comprise those which are blocked due to parental control features (IA: Page 8, Lines 27-30). However, the claims do not particularly limit what an unavailable channel means. Accordingly, Agasse reference discloses the display of both available and unavailable channels wherein unavailable channels are those channels for which the user does not have access rights either by virtue of the program being blocked due to it being of an adult nature or blocked because the user has not purchased the program rendering the channel unavailable for subsequent access.

The “display interface” [80] further comprises a “channel group selector configured to be activated to switch the channel matrix among the groups of channels to select a current group

Art Unit: 2614

of channels” such that the selection of the left navigation arrow switches to a new group or mosaic of 20 programs of the 60 or more available channels (Agasse: Page 23, Lines 9-17).

The “display interface” [80] further comprises a “cursor configured to be moved to positions along the rows and columns of the matrix” [83] that further services as a “channel selector which selects and tunes the channel corresponding to the definable channel indicator at the position of the cursor on the matrix” (Page 22, Line 31 – Page 23, Line 7), and a “channel status section” [84] separate from the “channel matrix” that “displays status information of . . . a television channel corresponding to the indicator at the position of the cursor on the matrix” in a manner such that the “channel status section and the channel matrix are displayed concurrently” (Page 8, Lines 26-32; Page 23, Lines 1-4).

The “display interface” [80] of Agasse, however, does not disclose nor preclude the limitations “wherein channels having programs with viewer selected features are highlighted” or the limitation wherein the aforementioned “channel status section” [84] further includes a “channel number and a plurality of program property indicators” or the limitation wherein the aforementioned “channel group selector . . . display[s] a channel indicator of a base channel in the current group of channels”.

With respect to the “highlighting” limitation, the Agasse reference suggests that the user is operable to sort the program mosaic by theme (Page 33, Lines 24-30). The Oosterhout et al. reference discloses a “display interface having a group of channels” that facilitates the “tuning” of a “television receiver” [2]. Turning to Figure 4, the display comprises a similar channel matrix to that claimed and illustrated by Aggasse “wherein channels having programs with viewer selected features are highlighted” (Page 4, Lines 18-21; Page 5, Line

Art Unit: 2614

8-33). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the Agasse display so as to highlight channels having programs with viewer selected features for the purpose of providing a method of navigating through television programs which further enhances the convenience of using electronic program guide by facilitating theme searches in conjunction with a mosaic screen display (Oosterhout et al.: Page 1, Lines 20 – Page 2, Line 23).

With respect to the “channel status section information” [84], the Agasse reference discloses that the “channel status section” may comprise information regarding the program (Agasse: Page 30, Lines 30-32), but it does not particularly disclose nor preclude the nature of this information. The Matthews, III reference discloses that it is known in the art of display interfaces for information regarding a program to display “status information” regarding selected channel including “a channel number and a plurality of program property indicators” (Col 5, Lines 36-49). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made so as to modify the “channel status section” [84] of Agasse to include additional information regarding the program such as that employed by Matthews, III for the purpose of readily informing a user of an interactive viewing system as what program is being viewed/selected and to further provide a means so as to quickly and easily obtain information regarding a program’s identity and other information about the program (Matthews, III: Col 1, Lines 44-50).

With respect to the limitation pertaining to the “channel group selector”, while the “display interface” [80] of Agasse further comprises a “channel group selector” in the form of a navigation arrow such does not particularly comprise an “indicator of a base channel in

Art Unit: 2614

the current group of channels. In a related art pertaining to the navigation of channels within a satellite distribution system, the Harm et al. reference discloses a “channel group selector” [810] that is “configured to be activated to switch . . . among groups of channels to select a current group of channels and to display a channel indicator of a base channel in the current group of channels” [814] such that the “base channel” corresponds to the first channel on which the display group is based (Col 11, Lines 38-54). Accordingly, it would have obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the invention was made so as to modify the Aggasse “channel group selector” using the teachings of Harm et al. for the purpose of providing an efficient means for navigating through large numbers of channels offered through satellite television (Harm et al.: Col 2, Lines 15-36).

Claim 3 is rejected wherein the “viewer selected features include a plurality of program types” associated with topics such as entertainment, movies, news, sports, etc. and the “display interface further includes means for selection one of the program types as the viewer selected feature” [42] (Oosterhout et al.: Page 5, Lines 8-18).

Claim 4 is rejected wherein the “program types are predetermined program types” (Oosterhout et al.: Page 3, Lines 7-13; Page 5, Lines 12-14).

Claim 6 is rejected wherein “viewer selected features include at least one program transmission characteristic” such as when a program is broadcast (Oosterhout et al.: Page 6, Lines 1-24).

In consideration of claim 7, the combined references do not explicitly disclose nor preclude that dimensions of the display interface such that “n and m equal 10 such that each group of channels includes at most 100 channels”. The Oosterhout et al. reference discloses

Art Unit: 2614

that the embodiment is operable to support “zooming” such that a 4×4 or 8×8 matrix may be displayed (Page 6, Line 25-33). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further support “zooming” such that “ n and m equal 10 such that each group of channels includes at most 100 channels” for the purpose of easily determining a particular quadrant wherein most information matching the selected criteria is found in conjunction with larger matrixes of channels (Oosterhout et al.: Page 6, Lines 32-33).

Claim 8 is rejected wherein “each definable channel indicator is said channel matrix is color-coded to indicate the status information of the corresponding channel” (Oosterhout et al.: Page 5, Lines 19-30).

Claim 9 is rejected wherein the Agasse reference discloses the use of a “remote control device” [29] including “at least on cursor navigation key for moving the cursor along the rows and columns of the matrix” [42] wherein the “channel selector is a further key on the remote control device” [43] (Page 21, Lines 6-15).

Claim 11 is rejected as aforementioned in the rejection of claim 1 based upon the combined teachings, wherein the “television receiver” [13] is “configured to receive C channels, where C is an integer” and is more than 60 (Aggasse: Page 23, Lines 9-10). As aforementioned, Figures 4-7 of Agasse illustrate a “channel matrix having n columns and m rows for display a plurality of definable channels indicators for at most $n \times m$ channels . . . including entries for both available and unavailable channels, where n and m are positive integers greater than 2 and $n \times m$ is less than C , each definable channel indicator corresponding to a respectively different position in the matrix . . . and the channels

represented by the channel matrix are a current group of channels selected from among a plurality of channel groups” (Page 1, Lines 19-27; Page 22, Lines 18-30; Page 23, Lines 9-24; Page 25, Lines 11-19). A user is operable to “move a cursor over channel indicator in the matrix to indicate a possible selection of a channel corresponding to one of the channel indicators” [83] whereupon the system “displays status information, separate from the channel matrix including . . . a plurality of program property indicators concerning the possibly selected channel” [84] in a manner such that the “channel status section and the channel matrix are displayed concurrently” (Page 8, Lines 26-32; Page 23, Lines 1-4). Subsequently, “responsive to the displayed status information”, the user is operable to “select the channel indicator corresponding to the . . . selected channel to cause the television receiver to display the television program corresponding to the selected channel indicator” (Page 22, Line 31 – Page 23, Line 7).

The “display interface” [80] of Agasse, however, does not disclose nor preclude the limitations “wherein channels having programs with viewer selected features are highlighted” or the limitation wherein the aforementioned “channel status section” [84] further includes a “channel number and a plurality of program property indicators” or the limitation wherein the user interface [80] further “display[s] a channel indicator of a base channel in the current group of channels as a channel group selector”.

With respect to the “highlighting” limitation, as previously set forth, Figures 4 and 6 of the Oosterhout et al. reference discloses a “display interface having a group of channels” “wherein channels having programs with viewer selected features are highlighted” (Page 4, Lines 18-21; Page 5, Line 8-33). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having

ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the Agasse display so as to highlight channels having programs with viewer selected features for the purpose of providing a method of navigating through television programs which further enhances the convenience of using electronic program guide by facilitating theme searches in conjunction with a mosaic screen display (Oosterhout et al.: Page 1, Lines 20 – Page 2, Line 23).

With respect to the limitation wherein the “channel status section . . . include[es] a channel number and a plurality of program property indicators”, the Matthews, III reference provides evidence that it is known in the art of display interfaces for information regarding a program to display “status information” regarding selected channel including “a channel number and a plurality of program property indicators” (Col 5, Lines 36-49). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made so as to modify the “channel status section” [84] of Agasse to include additional information regarding the program such as that employed by Matthews, III for the purpose of readily informing a user of an interactive viewing system as what program is being viewed/selected and to further provide a means so as to quickly and easily obtain information regarding a program’s identity and other information about the program (Matthews, III: Col 1, Lines 44-50).

With respect to the limitation pertaining to “displaying a channel indicator . . . as a channel group selector [and] activating the channel group selector to switch the channel matrix among the groups of channels and to select the current group of channels”, the user interface [80] of Agasse comprises a “channel group selector” that can be “activated . . . to switch the channel matrix among the groups of channels and to select a current group of

channels” (Agasse: Page 23, Lines 9-17). As previously set forth, the “channel group selector”, does not further “display a channel indicator of a base channel in the current group of channels”. The Harm et al. reference discloses the “display” of a “channel group selector” [810] that “displays a channel indicator of a base channel in the current group of channels” and configured to be “activated to switch . . . among groups of channels to select a current group of channels” [814] such that the “base channel” corresponds to the first channel on which the display group is based (Col 11, Lines 38-54). Accordingly, it would have obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the invention was made so as to modify the Agasse “channel group selector” using the teachings of Harm et al. for the purpose of providing an efficient means for navigating through large numbers of channels offered through satellite television (Harm et al.: Col 2, Lines 15-36).

In consideration of claim 12, as illustrated in conjunction with the implementation of the “channels having programs with viewer selected features are highlighted” shown in Figure 4 of Oosterhout et al., the method further comprises “prompting a viewer to select the features of the programs” (Oosterhout et al.: Page 5, Lines 8-18). Furthermore, as set forth in the combination of references, the “channel group selector” of Harm et al. is “displayed” in a manner “to represent the one group of channels in which all channels indicators in the one group of channels that have at least one of the selected features are highlighted”. For example, the “channel group selector” is representative of the currently displayed base channels and subsequently 19 channels some or all of which may be highlighted as being associated with a given category.

Claim 13 is rejected wherein the “step of highlighting the channel indicators for the programs having viewer selected features includes the step of displaying the highlighted channel indicators in a different color than other channel indicators in the channel matrix” (Oosterhout et al.: Page 5, Lines 19-33).

In consideration of claim 14, as illustrated in conjunction with Figure 4 of the Oosterhout et al. reference, the embodiment “prompts a view to select” by “displaying a feature selection portion including a plurality of features” [41/42/43] “representing respectively different types of programs” [42] and “at least one feature representing a function that may be performed on the channels represented by the channel matrix” such as the selection of a next group of channels [41] and/or the ability zoom in on the matrix [43]. Subsequently, the “channels having the programs with the selected program types” are “highlighted” and the “results of applying the at least one selected function to the to the possibly selected channel” in conjunction with the next [41] function is “displayed” in the “status information” (Page 6, Lines 1-24).

Claim 16 is rejected in light of the combined teachings set forth in the rejection of claim 1. In particular, the Agasse reference discloses an “apparatus” [13] for “implementing a display interface” as illustrated in conjunction with Figures 4-7 with “channel group selection means” in the form of navigational arrows to navigate between groups of channels. The apparatus as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, comprises the “means for displaying” [14], the “means for moving a cursor” [29], the “means for displaying status information” [14], and the “means, responsive to the displayed status information for indicating a selection of the channel indicator” [14].

Art Unit: 2614

As aforementioned, the limitation “ wherein channels having programs with viewer selected features are highlighted” is taught in conjunction with Oosterhout et al. (Page 4, Lines 18-21; Page 5, Line 8-33), the limitation wherein the “channel status section” [84] advantageously further includes a “channel number and a plurality of program property indicators” is taught by Matthews, III (Col 5, Lines 36-49), and the limitation wherein the “channel group selection means . . . displays a channel indicator of a base channel in the current group of channels” is taught by Harm et al. (Col 11, Lines 38-54).

Claim 17 is rejected as outlined in conjunction with claim 1 wherein the combined references may be implemented via a “computer readable carrier including a computer program that controls a computer to implement a display interface” (Agasse: Page 18, Lines 26-32; Page 19, Lines 8-17). As aforementioned, Figures 4-7 of Agasse illustrate a “display interface having a group of channels for tuning a television receiver” [80] that comprises a “channel matrix having n columns and m rows for display a plurality of definable channels indicators for at most n x m channels . . . including entries for both available and unavailable channels, where n and m are positive integers greater than 2, each definable channel indicator corresponding to a respectively different position in the matrix . . . and the channels represented by the channel matrix are a current group of channels selected from among a plurality of channel groups” (Page 1, Lines 19-27; Page 22, Lines 18-30; Page 23, Lines 9-24; Page 25, Lines 11-19). A user is operable to “move a cursor over channel indicator in the matrix to indicate a possible selection of a channel corresponding to one of the channel indicators” [83] whereupon the system “displays status information, separate from the channel matrix including . . . a plurality of program property indicators concerning the

possibly selected channel” [84] in a manner such that the “channel status section and the channel matrix are displayed concurrently” (Page 8, Lines 26-32; Page 23, Lines 1-4).

Subsequently, “responsive to the displayed status information”, the user is operable to “select the channel indicator corresponding to the . . . selected channel to cause the television receiver to display the television program corresponding to the selected channel indicator” (Page 22, Line 31 – Page 23, Line 7).

The “display interface” [80] of Agasse, however, does not disclose nor preclude the limitations “wherein channels having programs with viewer selected features are highlighted” or the limitation wherein the aforementioned “channel status section” [84] further includes a “channel number and a plurality of program property indicators” or the limitation wherein the “display interface” [80] further “display[s] a channel indicator of a base channel in the current group of channels as a channel group selector”.

With respect to the “highlighting” limitation, as previously set forth, Figures 4 and 6 of the Oosterhout et al. reference discloses a “display interface having a group of channels” “wherein channels having programs with viewer selected features are highlighted” (Page 4, Lines 18-21; Page 5, Line 8-33). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the Agasse display so as to highlight channels having programs with viewer selected features for the purpose of providing a method of navigating through television programs which further enhances the convenience of using electronic program guide by facilitating theme searches in conjunction with a mosaic screen display (Oosterhout et al.: Page 1, Lines 20 – Page 2, Line 23).

With respect to the limitation wherein the “channel status section . . . include[es] a channel number and a plurality of program property indicators”, the Matthews, III reference provides evidence that it is known in the art of display interfaces for information regarding a program to display “status information” regarding selected channel including “a channel number and a plurality of program property indicators” (Col 5, Lines 36-49). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made so as to modify the “channel status section” [84] of Agasse to include additional information regarding the program such as that employed by Matthews, III for the purpose of readily informing a user of an interactive viewing system as what program is being viewed/selected and to further provide a means so as to quickly and easily obtain information regarding a program’s identity and other information about the program (Matthews, III: Col 1, Lines 44-50).

With respect to the limitation pertaining to the “displaying a channel indicator”, the Harm et al. reference discloses the “display” of a “channel group selector” [810] that is “configured to be activated to switch . . . among groups of channels to select a current group of channels and to display a channel indicator of a base channel in the current group of channels” [814] such that the “base channel” corresponds to the first channel on which the display group is based (Col 11, Lines 38-54). Accordingly, it would have obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the invention was made so as to modify the Aggasse “channel group selector” using the teachings of Harm et al. for the purpose of providing an efficient means for navigating through large numbers of channels offered through satellite television (Harm et al.: Col 2, Lines 15-36).

Claims 18 and 19 are rejected wherein the channel status section [84] further comprises a “brief summary of a program on a television channel corresponding to the indicator at the position of the cursor on the matrix” or a “channel logo of a television channel corresponding to the indicator at the position of the cursor of the matrix” (Matthews, III: Col 5, Lines 36-49).

6. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Agasse (WO 00/05886), in view of Oosterhout et al. (WO 98/56176), in view of Matthews, III (US Pat No. 5,654,748), in view of Harms et al. (US Pat No. 6,057,831), and in further view of Schein et al. (US Pat No. 6,13,909).

In consideration of claim 5, the Oosterhout et al. reference discloses that the embodiment is operable to search the EPG data based on the desired type of program (Page 5, Lines 14-17). The reference, however, does not disclose nor preclude that the embodiment may not further facilitate the searching of “program types defined by the viewer”. The Schein et al. reference discloses a method locating programs of interest within an electronic program guide based on “program types defined by the viewer” in the form of a freeform text entry (Col 12, Line 66 – Col 13, Line 48). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further provide “program types defined by the viewer” for the purpose of providing a means by which a user may flexibly provide search criteria by which to retrieve programming of interest (Schein et al.: Col 2, Lines 18-23).

7. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Agasse (WO 00/05886), in view of Oosterhout et al. (WO 98/56176), in view of Matthews, III (US Pat

Art Unit: 2614

No. 5,654,748), view of Harms et al. (US Pat No. 6,057,831), and in further view of Handelman (US Pat No. 6,654,721).

In consideration of claim 10, the Agasse reference does not explicitly disclose nor preclude that the system may further facilitate navigation within the program guide matrix utilizing a "voice recognition system". The Handelman reference discloses a "voice recognition system" [50] that "recognizes voiced direction commands to move the cursor along the rows and columns" of a program guide matrix and further "recognizes a voiced selection command to act as the channel selector" (Col 12, Lines 28-67; Col 14, Lines 14-51). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combined teachings so as to utilize the "voice recognition system" of Handelman for the purposes of advantageously providing a voice activation device and method for operating various program guide functions in a television system (Handelman et al.: Col 2, Lines 21-24).

8. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Agasse (WO 00/05886), in view of Oosterhout et al. (WO 98/56176), in view of Matthews, III (US Pat No. 5,654,748), and in further view of Legall et al. (US Pat No. 6,005,565).

In consideration of claim 15, the Agasse reference discloses the ability to block adult material from being displayed in conjunction with a channel mosaic (Page 22, Lines 21-27). The combined references, however, do not explicitly disclose the usage of determining a "V-chip rating" in conjunction with the implementation locating programming of interest. The Legall et al. reference discloses a method for searching a program guide that "includes determining a V-Chip rating for the possibly selected channel" [420]. Accordingly, it would

Art Unit: 2614

have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further include a "function" that includes "determining a V-Chip rating for the possibly selected channel" as taught by Legall et al. for the purpose of implementing a program guide search tool that supports a plurality of search criteria for locating programming of interest.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- The Curreri (US Pat No. 6,817,027) reference discloses a display interface comprising a channel matrix. This reference does not currently qualify as prior art under 35 USC 102, however, is being cited as the claimed subject matter is similar to the instant application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Beliveau whose telephone number is 703-305-4907. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m..

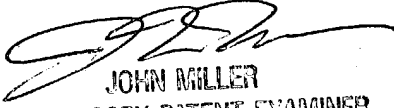
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Miller can be reached on 703-305-4795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2614

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SEB

December 20, 2004


JOHN MILLER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600